Remuneration paid to Shri S. Gurumurthy by Indian Express

1893. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. S. Gurumurthy was paid enormous remuneration for writing articles for Indian Express Group of Papers during 1985 and 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Mr. Gurumurthy deliberately avoided in mentioning the correct remuneration paid to him in the income tax returns filed by him for the respective years; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and take necessary action against Mr. Gurumurthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) It is reported that no returns of income have been filed by Mr. S. Gurumurthy for assessment years 1985-86 and 1986-87. However, notices under Section 148 and 139(2) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 have been issued for the respective years asking him to file returns of income. The return for asseessment year 1987-88 has not fallen due. Whether enormous remuneration for writing articles for Indian Express Group of Papers was received by him can be ascertained only after returns of income are filed or assessments are made.

Rental income of Indian Express Newspapers Private Limited

1894. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rental income in the last three years of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited and whether this has been included in the Income Tax returns; and

(b) what is its total profits of the company during the last three years alongwith the divdents paid to shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The rental income in the last three years of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited is as under:

Asstt. Year	Rental income
1984-85	2,29,19,284
1985-86	2,64,86,901
1986-87	68,93,810

This has been included in the income-tax returns.

(b) The book profits of the company during the last three years are as under:

Asstt Year.	Book Profits
1984-85	50,33,694
1985-86	95,63,200
1986-87	74,29,337

The dividend paid to the shareholders during these years is 'NIL'.

Profitability of Goenka Group of Companies

1895. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in R. N. Goenka group of Companies, the profitability of the holding company is kept at low level by various dubious devices;